



State of California – The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
1416 Ninth Street  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

**PROJECT TITLE:** Cowell Ranch Information Collection

**LOCATION:** Cowell Ranch / Marsh Creek Road

**COUNTY:** Contra Costa

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:**

Conduct a series of six to ten test excavation pits using a backhoe to collect information on the presence and/or absence of archaeological resources. Test pits will be approximately three feet wide by four feet in length and up to three to six feet in depth. A staff archaeologist will be present on site to oversee all excavation activities. If archaeological evidence is found within a test excavation pit; excavations will cease, the resource recorded, the location documented, and the pit backfilled. Excavation will avoid small burrows by staying 15 feet away from small diameter burrows, and 25 feet away from burrows having a 5" or bigger diameter entry hole.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Diablo Vista District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

- ☐ Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (Section )
- ☒ Categorical Exemption

Class: 6      Section: 15306

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:**

Project consists of information collection included as "Archaeological investigations by Department staff" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR §15300.4.

**CONTACT:** Steve Bachman  
Diablo Vista District

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Signature on Original Document

Donald Monahan  
District Superintendent  
Diablo Vista District

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DATE